

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 79, No. 5

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 24, 2015

Council Approves Sending Letter To Welcome Vetted Refugees

by Kathleen Gallagher

At its November 23 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council received a petition from resident Josh Hamlin asking that council adopt a resolution expressing Greenbelt's willingness to welcome refugees from the current warfare in Syria and urging elected officials at all levels of government to cooperate in actively addressing the current refugee crisis.

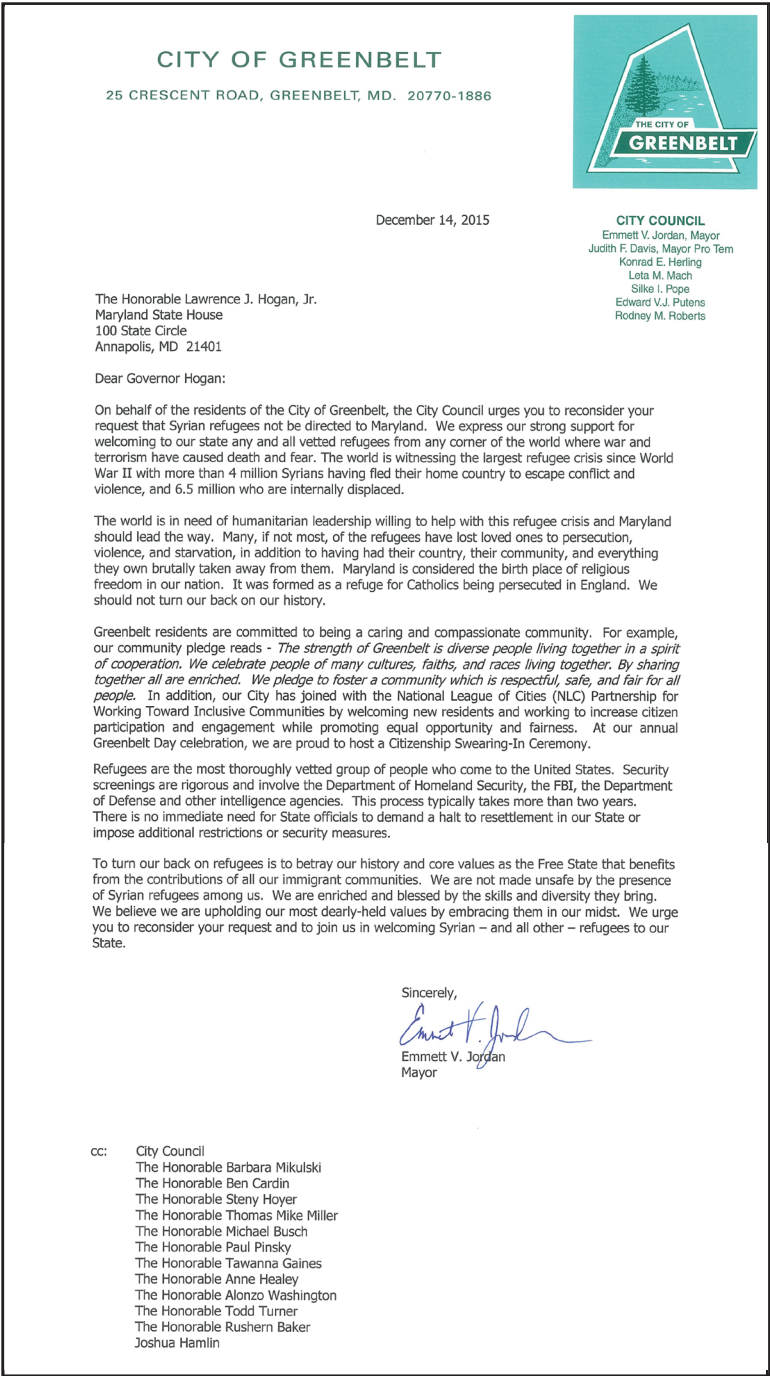
At its December 14 meeting, council voted 6-1 to make that statement in the form of a letter addressed to Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan with copies to the city's elected officials at the federal, state and county levels, as well as the president of the State Senate and the speaker of the House of Delegates. (See box) In so doing, the council has aligned Greenbelt with a rapidly increasing number of municipalities nationally that have taken exception to the opinions voiced on this subject by their state or federal representatives.

Hamlin's petition was sparked by demands from the governors of more than half of the states, including Maryland's own Governor Lawrence Hogan, that the federal government halt consideration of resettling any refugees within the boundaries of their states. Hogan's statement was at the milder end of the spectrum, asking that no further resettlements occur until there can be greater assurance that refugees from Syria pose no threat.

Hamlin had made it clear that he was not asking for any specific commitments of funding or action from the city if it took a public stand welcoming refugees. Rather, he grounded his request firmly in the Greenbelt Community Pledge, which expresses the city's affirmation of the value of diversity, as well as its aspirations regarding tolerance. Upon Hamlin's reading it aloud, the pledge was quickly recognized by councilmembers and residents alike as a possible touchstone for community agreement.

Although several of those who spoke in support of the petition in November were insistent that the city council should vote on the matter that night, Mayor Emmett Jordan, with the concurrence of most councilmembers, said it would instead be placed on the agenda of the December 14 meeting for further discussion and action. That delay not only allowed time for appropriate notice to the public, so that anyone wishing to speak or send in comments could do so, but it also saved time by allowing for a letter to be drafted for council's consideration at the meeting.

See REFUGEES, page 11



A blue heron catches a fish at Greenbelt Lake. See related story on page 8.

American Education Week

In celebration of American education, these columns carry stories of selected teachers from the schools that serve the Greenbelt community. This week readers will get a glimpse inside the Dora Kennedy French Immersion School as we profile two of its dedicated teachers.

The stories feature two teachers or staff members at each school, and are coordinated by David Lange, who originated the series and liaises with the schools, and Alice Murray who works with the reporters.

Fourth Grade Teacher Likes Giving Back to Community

by Kyla Hanington

"I am who I am because of teachers," Jacques Moukouri, fourth-grade teacher at Dora Kennedy French Immersion School in Greenbelt, reflected on what inspires him to teach. Moukouri, one of two teachers chosen by Acting Principal Clara Yancey to be honored during American Education Week, sees teaching as a chance to give back to the community. "I had one teacher who always told me 'believe in yourself'," he remembered. That repeated message helped give him both motivation and confidence and shaped his life.

"This is my second life," Moukouri said. For 24 years he was a business executive working in human resources in his native Cameroon before he came to the United States over a decade ago. "I am a human resource oriented person," he explained. "I want to work with people and I want to help people develop." He sees his work as a teacher of children much the same as his work with adults, as an opportunity to help and foster growth and development.

Of particular importance to Moukouri is to teach his students about responsibility. "Choices have consequences," he said. "You should always try your best." He wants the children to learn this about their school work. "You know, grades are important to kids. I tell them, I am not giving you a grade. You are earning a grade. You want to give yourself a D, that's okay, that's your choice. You

want to give yourself an A, that's okay, that's your choice." He also wants the children to learn this about life. "You have a responsibility to your community," he said, "and accountability should be a part of daily life."

If a student is unclear about something he has already covered in class, Moukouri invites another student to try to answer the question. This allows the student who was unsure to get the answer, and gives an opportunity to the other child to "rearticulate the idea."

One of the aspects of teaching Moukouri enjoys the most is seeing the learning that occurs in the classroom. "It is amazing," he said. "I like that 'aha' moment in the kids." Moukouri teaches math to all the fifth-grade students at the school and he likes them to see how math is not just numbers, but about solving real life problems. For example, he said, if the students go to a store, "they can figure out if it is better to buy a product at Costco rather than in Giant. They learn how to compare prices, things sold in bulk versus items sold singly."

Moukouri, a native French speaker, found French immersion a natural fit for him. He began working at Robert Goddard French Immersion School almost a decade ago and has been with the school, now named after the late educator Dora Kennedy, continuously since then. "I couldn't exchange teaching for another profession," he said.



Jacques Moukouri

PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

What Goes On

Tuesday, December 29

1 to 4 p.m., Free Babysitting Courses, Municipal Building

Thursday, December 31

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Compost Bins (Discounted), Public Works Building

Sunday, January 3

1 to 3 p.m., Community Art Drop-in, Community Center

Monday, January 4

7:30 p.m., City Council Special Meeting on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed FBI Headquarters

Editorial

Our Carriers Bring Holiday Greetings

Around this time of year it has been traditional for the youngsters who deliver the News Review to leave holiday greetings envelopes at the homes they serve. The News Review does not pay our carriers much, your generous holiday donations and expressions of appreciation help make their job worthwhile.

Most carriers range in age from preteen to the middle teens. For the younger boys and girls, delivering the News Review is their first job experience. Many of the older carriers started at a young age and continue to deliver the News Review mainly as a service to their neighborhood. It is a learning process for all these youngsters and, in some cases, the instillation of responsibility takes time and patience.

The holiday season affords all of us a chance to show appreciation and to provide encouragement for the efforts of these youngsters and at the same time to show understanding for any failings that may have occurred during the year.

Again this year, the carriers will leave envelopes. We hope these envelopes, identified with the carrier’s name and address, will be helpful to you as you show appreciation. If your carrier’s name or address is in doubt, mail your envelope to the News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 for forwarding. Please include your address so we can identify your carrier.

Letters to the Editor

Classes for Seniors Through PGCC College

Greenbelt is able to offer a substantial amount of classes for seniors by being a part of the Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally (SAGE) program. With a relatively small semester fee of \$75, seniors are able to sign up for as many classes as they desire; however, there are seniors whose first financial priorities go to medication, food and other needs, and they cannot afford to take any classes. Thanks to a small grant program offered through the college, some assistance is available.

If you are looking to make an end-of-the-year donation to help seniors in need improve the quality of their lives, please consider giving any sum of money, no matter how small, to PGCC. If you would like to donate in someone’s memory, please include a note and they will list it in their next regular publication.

Checks should be made out to Prince George’s Community College with Seniors Helping Seniors written on the memo line. They should be mailed to: PGCC Seniors Helping Seniors, Kent Hall, Room 207, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774-2199, attn. Ruth Harris

Katrina Boverman
SAGE Instructor

Why Oppose Road Improvements?

Along with many other Greenbelt residents my weekday commute home in the 4 to 5 p.m. period includes driving south on

Edmonston Road. Edmonston is choked with heavy traffic in both north and south directions. Sunnyside Avenue and Powder Mill Road are choked in the eastbound (feeding Edmonston) direction. In addition, both Sunnyside and Powder Mill flood during heavy rains. Even if the FBI elects to locate elsewhere, these roads badly need to be widened and improved.

In the December 17 issue of the News Review there was a statement by one councilmember, Judith Davis, warning her colleagues to stay vigilant against efforts to improve the roads in this area. I am a Greenbelt taxpayer and voter working full time and dependent on these roads. Other Greenbelt working residents must be in the same situation.

Why are the Greenbelt elected officials trying to make our commute more difficult by opposing badly needed road improvements? The county/state/federal governments are capable of engineering this in ways that protect the environment. Enhanced public transit serving wide areas north of Greenbelt is not going to be funded and implemented any time soon. For most of us, bicycles are not a daily, all weather option.

I invite our city councilmembers to drive through this area either north to south or in the more heavily congested south to north direction between 4 and 5 p.m. on a weekday to get a first-hand appreciation of this issue. Also drive along Sunnyside or Powder Mill during or right after a heavy rain. Then come back and tell us why you want to prevent the county and state from widening

City Notes

Planning staff met with a Greenway Center representative to discuss plans to construct a bank on the remaining pad site.

Refuse/Recycling/Sustainability staff set up a zero waste station for the holiday party at Public Works.

Not only did Santa visit the Youth Center and reach out by phone to many boys and girls throughout the Greenbelt community, he placed a call overseas to a previous Greenbelt resident whose family has been stationed in Germany over the past year.

With the assistance of Ms. Gaye and her elves, 16 children spent the afternoon creating holiday centerpieces, garlands, ornaments and some yummy treats at the Elf Workshop in the Youth Center.

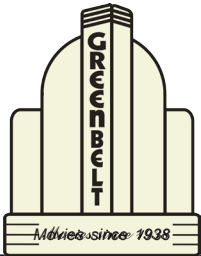
Edmonston Road and improving Sunnyside and Powder Mill.

William E. Hatch

Thanks

Thanks to the editors and the whole staff of the Greenbelt News Review for publishing the obituary of my late partner Ken Reigner, of Lakeside Drive. I only got the information to them a few days ago. Being a freelance

See LETTERS, page 7



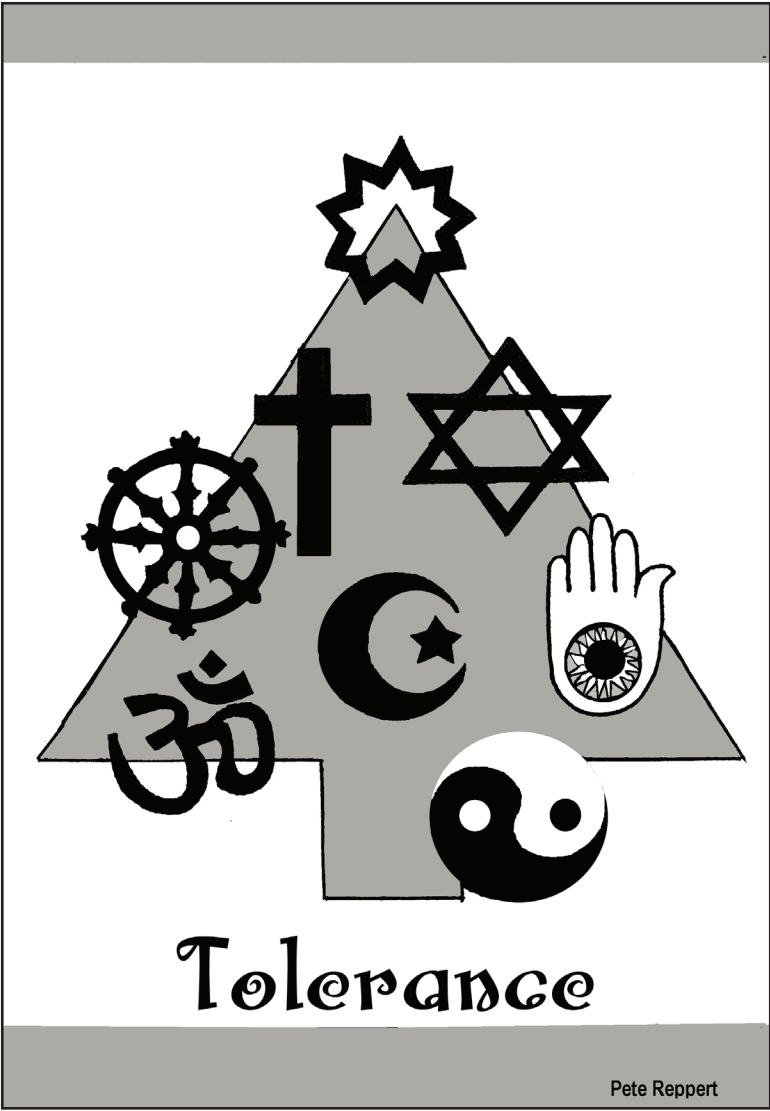
Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Adults \$9
Senior/Student \$8, Kids \$6
Members receive a \$1 discount on all shows after 5:00 PM
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions

SHOWTIMES Dec 25 - Dec 31









JOY
(PG-13) (CC) (124 m.)
Fri. 3:15 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 1:00 PM, 3:15 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 1:00 PM (OC), 3:15 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 3:30 PM, 6:00 PM, 8:30 PM
Tues. 3:15 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Wed. 3:15 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Thurs. 3:15 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM

Family Series:
HOME ALONE (PG)
(115 m.)
Mon. 1:00 PM
This is a free and members only event!



KEY to cartoon

Background: Greenbelt city flag



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads—8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

This week's Swifty . . .

You can borrow my eBook reader," she offered K _ _ _ ly.

Answer to Swifty 12-10-15: "Maybe if I just clear my mind, I'll remember that Freudian construct where you operate on instinct," he thought i D ly..

Community Events

Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Thursday, December 24, Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. The Café will close at 5 p.m.

Friday, December 25, the café will be closed for Christmas.

Saturday, December 26, a Jazz Jam with Greg Meyer from 1 to 5 p.m. Bring on your jazz groove and join in this community jam session. John Guernsey plays American standards on piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fast Eddie & The Slow Pokes offer up a blend of Chicago, West Coast, swing and jump blues from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 27, the Deaf Brunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The Reilly Goulait Band play originals and covers of folk and rock songs of the 60s through the present from 5 to 8 p.m.

Monday, December 28, the New Deal Café Board of Directors' meeting from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Members and visitors welcome.

Tuesday, December 29, Susan Jones Jazz Quartet will perform originals and jazz standards from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, December 30, The Seth Kibel Quartet offers up high energy jazz and Klezmer music from 7 to 9 p.m. A café favorite, reservations for this show are recommended.

Thursday, December 31, Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Saskia and the Truly Unruly Band will perform a special New Year's Eve show from 8:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Friday, January 1, the Café will be closed on New Year's Day.

Saturday, January 2, the TV John Variety Show from 11 a.m. to noon. Bruce Krittr plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by Guernsey playing jazz and blues piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The Roustabouts will perform original upbeat blues music sprinkled with funk, R&B and rock from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.

Happy New Year from the Greenbelt Arts Center

COMING IN 2016

Zombie Prom – January 22 – Feb 13
Directed by Jeff Lezniak

Bad Jews - March 4 - 20
Directed by Bob Kleinberg

Enchanted April - April 9 - May 1
Directed by Pauline Griller-Mitchell

New Wrinkles: The Middle-Age Musical
May 13 - 29 - Directed by Helen LaRose

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

At the Library

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System branches will be closed on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1 for the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day holidays.

Weekly Storytimes

Wednesday, December 30: Preschool Storytime, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people.

Encourage children to make reading a positive experience by bringing them to the library's storytimes. Each program contains a mixture of engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the event.

Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215. All meals include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of December 28 are as follows:

Monday, December 28: Cranberry juice, sliced turkey with gravy, bread dressing, green beans, cornbread, fresh fruit.

Tuesday, December 29: Apple juice, baked meatballs with marinara sauce, whole grain spaghetti, broccoli, Italian bread, fresh fruit.

Wednesday, December 30: Grape juice, crispy baked chicken, macaroni and cheese, glazed carrots, wheat bread, tropical fruit.

Thursday, December 31: Cranberry juice, glazed turkey ham, black-eyed peas, cabbage, cornbread, fruited cherry gelatin dessert.

Friday, January 1: New Year's Day holiday. All sites closed.

Discounted Compost Bins

Greenbelt residents are invited to pick up a discounted compost bin on New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Come to 555 Crescent Road past the chain link fence and follow the signs. Compost bins are \$30 for Greenbelt residents only. Check or cash accepted. Make check payable to NIE Institute. These bins go for \$70 at Home Depot. The city can offer them at a lower cost thanks to a collaboration with Doug Alexander from Backyard-composting.org and Newspaper In Education Institute.

Del. Washington Hosts Free Breakfast

Delegate Alonzo Washington invites the community to join him for free breakfast and coffee on Tuesday, January 5 from 7 to 8:30 a.m. at the New Deal Café.

The help and support of citizens have contributed to his legislative successes and outreach initiatives over the past year. Join him to discuss issues, concerns and ideas before the 2016 Legislative Session begins.

MakerSpace Events

Your friends at MakerSpace are taking a holiday break, but we will be open on Tuesday, December 29 and Wednesday, December 30 from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

On Tuesday, we will have our usual Coder Dojo for kids from 7 to 8 p.m. and for adults from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, Knit Night (and other Fibery Pursuits) will take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Come by to wind down from holiday stress or finish up some mittens to keep warm on New Year's Eve.

Happy Holidays from Greenbelt MakerSpace.

Energy Assistance Available from State

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) energy efficiency programs are designed to help low-income Marylanders save money on utility bills; improve the comfort, health and safety of their homes; and repair or replace nonfunctioning heating systems.

Through the program, a home energy analyst will visit the home to conduct a comprehensive whole-house assessment of energy and health and safety related issues. Applicants must meet income and other eligibility requirements. Using state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, including blower door, carbon monoxide and heat system testing and infrared scans, the analyst will develop a full-service, energy-efficient retrofit scope of work to be implemented by an authorized weatherization company.

DHCD also offers evaluations and corrective services to address lead paint, mold, asbestos, roofing issues and light rehab/structural issues and can assist in the repair or replacement of nonfunctioning heating systems for qualifying individuals.

To be eligible for these programs, a resident's household income must be equal to or less than the equivalent of 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For a one-person family unit, the maximum annual household income is \$23,540; for a two-person family, \$31,860; three-person, \$40,180; four-person, \$48,500; five-person, \$56,820; six-person, \$65,140; seven-person, \$73,460 and eight-person \$81,780.

For more information, visit dhcd.maryland.gov/Website/Programs/lieep or call 855-583-8976.



Utopia Film Festival Presents
Sunday, Dec. 27th & Wednesday, Dec. 30th
Beginning at 8 PM

“Film Has No Borders (2013)”,
“Lucky Express (2013)”,
“Arctic Fox (2014)”, and “Code Blue”

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Do you have a video project that will serve or promote the Greenbelt Community?

Apply for the

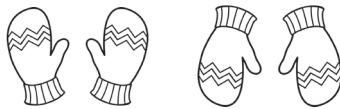
Thomas X. White Memorial Scholarship!!

The winning recipient will receive a 2016 membership as well as training for the Canon cameras and Adobe Premiere Pro or Final Cut Pro X non-linear editing software to bring that project to fruition. GATe is now accepting applications through Mon, Feb. 29th.

Guidelines are on the GATe website. The scholarship is open to all Greenbelt residents and Greenbelt organizations.

For more information, visit the GATe website or e-mail greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

For the Channel schedule go to www.greenbeltaccessstv.org and click on “Channel”.



ACADEMY STADIUM THEATERS
6198 GREENBELT ROAD
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA
301-220-1155
For directions visit
www.academy8theaters.com

R = ID Required
(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend
* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows
Most features are \$5.50 all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D

Week of December 25

FRIDAY

Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG13 (!)
1:30, 2:00, 4:30, 5:15, 6:50, 8:15, 9:45
Alvin & the Chipmunks: Road Chip, PG (!)
1, 2, 3:10, 4:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Sisters, R (!)
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
Daddy's Home, PG13, (!)
1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10
Point Break, PG13 (!)
1:30, 4, 7:20, 9:55
Concussion, PG13 (!)
1:30, 4:15, 7, 10
Creed, PG13
6:50, 9:45

SATURDAY – TUESDAY

Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG13 (!)
10:35, 11:05, 1:30, 2:00, 4:30, 5:15, 6:50, 8:15, 9:45
Alvin & the Chipmunks: Road Chip, PG (!)
10:50, 11:30, 1, 2, 3:10, 4:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Sisters, R (!)
11, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
Daddy's Home, PG13, (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10
Point Break, PG13 (!)
11:10, 1:10, 4, 7:00, 9:55
Concussion, PG13 (!)
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 10
Creed, PG13
6:50, 9:45

WEDNESDAY

Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG13
10:35, 11:05, 1:30, 2:00, 4:30, 5:15, 6:50, 8:15, 9:30
Alvin & the Chipmunks: Road Chip, PG
10:50, 11:30, 1, 1:40, 3:10, 3:50, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Sisters, R (!)
11, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
Daddy's Home, PG13, (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10
Point Break, PG13 (!)
11:00, 2, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
Concussion, PG13 (!)
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 10
The Hateful 8, R (!)
6, 9:30

THURSDAY

Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG13
10:35, 11:05, 1:30, 2:00, 5:15, 6:50, 8:15, 9:45
Alvin & the Chipmunks: Road Chip, PG
10:50, 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Sisters, R (!)
11, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
Daddy's Home, PG13, (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10
Point Break, PG13 (!)
11:00, 2, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
Concussion, PG13 (!)
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 10
The Hateful 8, R (!)
10:40, 2:20, 6, 9:30

In Memoriam

Ed Pray, WWII Veteran

by Rick Ransom

Edward F. Pray died peacefully at home on December 15, 2015. He was 93. He was born June 19, 1922 in Warren, Vt. He was raised by an aunt and uncle in Berlin, N.H. after his mother died when he was four. Upon graduation from high school, he attended technical school in Worcester, Mass. to become an electrician. He subsequently enlisted in the Navy in 1942 as WWII began. He served on four ships and retired as a petty officer first class electrician. He was a plank holder on his last two ships (aboard at maiden voyage). He was a member of Greenbelt American Legion Post 136.

Ed was introduced by neighbors to Shirley, his loving wife of 50 years. They celebrated their Golden Anniversary earlier this month, which Ed had steadfastly vowed to complete before his death. Ed had three children, Daniel Edward (Charlene) of Topsham, Me., Robin Bailey (Robert, who was a devoted son-in-law) of Greenbelt and Donald Lajoie (Debra) of Murphy, N.C. He loved his role as a father, as well as a grandfather to 11 and a great-grandfather to 14.

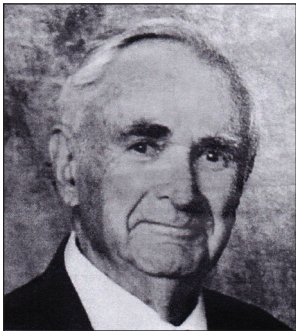
Ed mustered out of the Navy in Boston, and worked for General Electric there until Boston experienced six straight days of temperatures below zero. He told his supervisor it was too cold for him, packed up his car and few belongings, and headed south. I guess his naval trips had spoiled him. He stopped at a White Castle restaurant in Riverdale and some of the diners said a nearby ERCO airplane parts plant was hiring. He got a job there the next day. He later worked at National Motor Rebuilders in Washington, D.C. He started there as a driver but later became a plant supervisor. He also worked a variety of part-time jobs, sometimes working three jobs at once. He spent his last working years at Clarksville Auto parts in Maryland where he retired in 1989. He was a two-time cancer survivor after the age of 80.

Ed collected clocks from around the world and kept them all working and on display. He was a very talented woodworker and was most comfortable in his shop in the garage. Ed loved his tools, but happily lent them to neighbors when needed, along with screws and odds and ends on hand. The family remembers him as a perfectionist in his woodwork. Danny said once he spent several hours on a project over two days, found it to be one-eighth of an inch off and

started all over.

When Ed and Shirley moved to their home in the Lakewood subdivision in Greenbelt they had water run-off problems from a hill behind the house. Ed corrected them himself. When they needed a new dishwasher, he re-structured a wall to make room for it as the old one was a roll-away. He built a spiral staircase down to the basement with no nails or screws, completely notch-fitted and glued including the railing. Robin noted that he had a great ability to picture the project in his mind and piece out all of the requisite steps.

Ed and Shirley were avid bowlers and card players throughout their marriage. Shirley said they used dimes for betting, but at the end of each session, the group would put all of their winnings in a jar. At the end of the year, they would donate the money to Children's Hospital. Ed and Shirley traveled across the U.S. four times and visited all 50 states. They also took a variety of cruises in later years. Both were active in the Greenbelt Community Church, where I got to know them. He taught Sunday school for a time, often directing kids in woodworking projects for Mother's Day or Christmas gifts. He had a good, loud laugh when telling or listening to stories. I will remember him with that twinkle in his eye when he was about to make a humorous comment about something someone had just said. He did that often, much to the chagrin of some but more often shared merrily by all.



Ed Pray

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PRAY FAMILY



Condolences to the family and friends of former Greenbelter James W. Hughes, Jr., who died December 17, 2015, at the age of 68. Jim grew up in Greenbelt, and attended St. Hugh's School and DeMatha High School. He was the son of the late James Sr. and Mary Hughes. He will be greatly missed at the Post Home of American Legion Post 136, where he worked for many years, first as week-end barkeeper and recently as assistant manager. An American Legion service was held at Borgwardt's Funeral Home on December 20. His funeral Mass was held at St. Hugh of Grenoble Church on Monday, December 21, with burial at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

Longtime Greenbelter Itsy Kliman, 88, died December 17, 2015. She was the widow of artist Ted Kliman and was an accomplished calligrapher. Sympathy to her sons Andrew and Todd and other family and friends. Funeral services for Itsy were held at Mishkan Torah on Wednesday, December 23, with interment at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Adelphi.

Here's wishing all Our Neighbors a happy and peaceful holiday season.

To send us information for Our Neighbors, email us at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.
Kathleen McFarland



GREENBELT

BAPTIST CHURCH

Come worship God with us!

Sunday School 9:45AM

Worship Service 11:00AM

101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)

Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glenlyce Grindstaff, Pastor

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM, except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.

Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Conservative and Reconstructionist

Obituaries

Rayetta K. Henson

Rayetta K. Henson, 92, who retired in 1988 as sales director of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), died December 15, 2015 after a long illness at the home of her daughter in Margate, Fla.

Mrs. Henson, born Rayetta Kathleen Spickler, was the daughter of the late Paul Angle Spickler and Norma Virginia Hovis Spickler of Hagerstown, Md., where her parents ran a small delicatessen. She met and married the love of her life, Carroll L. Henson, shortly before World War II.

The couple moved to Greenbelt in 1949. She began working for GHI in the early 1960s. During her career as secretary, then as sales director, she welcomed many new members to the cooperative, making them feel comfortable and at home in their new and growing community.

Following her retirement, she worked as a sales assistant for a

local real estate firm and a real estate development company. In 2000, she moved to Florida to spend more time with her daughter.

PHOTO BY J. HENSON

Rayetta Henson

Mrs. Henson liked to begin each day reading Bible verses, listening to a Christian radio show and taking the daily Bible quiz.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Carroll Henson, in 1966. She leaves behind her daughter Bonita K. Hoke (Bob), of Margate, Fla.; son Jay C. Henson (Erin),

of Greenbelt; three grandsons – Robert Hoke, Lance Hoke and Ryan Hoke; several great-grandchildren and her two cats.

Services will be private with interment at Rest Haven Cemetery in Hagerstown, Md.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Worship Service 10 a.m.

Join us for Sunday breakfast 8:30 am

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

301-474-4322

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 27 10 a.m.

"HERI ZA KWANZAA"

Members of the Diversity and Anti-Racism Transformation Team; with Carol Carter-Walker, Worship Associate

PBUUC's DARTT members lead our annual Kwanzaa service.

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ

At Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve - Dec 24th

12:15 p.m. Simple Service of Holy Communion

6:00 p.m. Festive Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

(Brass, Choir, Nursery Provided)

Christmas Day - Dec 25th

9:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Rd. 301-345-5111

www.myholycross.org (Join us on Facebook)

Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.

Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Community Art Drop-Ins in January

Bring in the new year with a splash of color. The Greenbelt Recreation Department Arts Program invites guests of all ages to a Community Art Drop-In on Sunday, January 3. Two free workshops will run concurrently from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. Guests are welcome to participate in either or both activities.

In Room 113, Artist-in-Residence Kathy Karlson will lead a free painting party. All materials provided. Remember to wear your painting clothes.

In Room 204, guests can see young animators at work and try their hand at Flash at an animation open lab sponsored by Greenbelt Access Television.



“Animation Art by Rashan”

Enjoy a variety of additional activities at your leisure. See the current art gallery exhibit *Oriented Strands: Paintings by Chris Zickefoose*. Using common oriented strand board as a starting point, Zickefoose extracts and builds beautiful, abstract compositions with a jig saw, ink and paint. Jagged chips of wood are visually freed from their bonds with shifting emotional effects. After seeing this work, your Home Depot errands will never be the same. This show continues through January 22.

Also see the Greenbelt Museum’s current exhibit *The Knowing Hands that Carve This Stone: The New Deal Art of Lenore Thomas Straus*. Straus is best known locally as the creator of the iconic Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center and the impressive bas reliefs on the façade of the Community Center.

For more local history, tour the Greenbelt Museum’s historic house at 10-B Crescent Road, across the street from the Community Center. Exemplifying the residential core of this New Deal planned community, the house has been restored and furnished with objects from the period of 1936 to 1952. Tours provide visitors with a view of home life for ordinary Americans of modest means during the Great Depression and World War II. Docent-led tours are available on Sundays between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. for a nominal fee; please plan to arrive no later than 4:30 p.m.

For more information about City of Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts or call 301-397-2208. See the online Winter Activity Guide for information about visual and performing arts classes for all ages starting in January 2016 along with many more offerings. All Greenbelt Recreation Department programs are open to both residents and non-residents of the city. Arts programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



City Information

This holiday season, consider making a Charitable Donation to City of Greenbelt’s Agency Funds



Consider donating at this time of year to the Agency Funds, which helps our neighbors in need. Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes.

- Donation areas include the following:**
- The Recreation Department:** funds used to support camp scholarships and special events.
 - Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau:** the funds provide refreshments for the counseling sessions.
 - The Good Samaritan Fund:** funds provide for out-of-town persons stranded in Greenbelt and monies for groceries for low income families with whom CARES is working.
 - Emergency Assistance Fund:** funds assist Greenbelt residents at-risk of eviction.
 - Advisory Committee on Education (ACE):** fund initiatives such as ACE scholarships.
 - The Greenbelt Theater:** funds help keep the theater open.
 - Spay and Neuter Clinic Agency Fund:** funds used to purchase supplies and equipment to perform cat and dog neuters at the shelter.

Checks may be made payable to the City of Greenbelt. Donors may direct their donation toward one or more of the agency funds. Donations are tax deductible and upon request a letter acknowledging your gift will be issued.

Thank you to all residents who have contributed in years past. Happy Holidays!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed
Friday, December 25,
and Friday, January 1, in observance of the
Christmas and New Year’s Holidays.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of December 21 and December 28
Monday Route – Regular Schedule
Tuesday Route – Regular Schedule
Wednesday Route – Regular Schedule
Thursday Route – Regular Schedule
There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on
Friday, December 25, and Friday, January 1.

GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on
Friday, December 25, and Friday, January 1.

MOM’S MORNING OUT



This traditional pre-school program provides activities that encourage social development, offer beginning reading, math, & science curriculum, develop fine and gross motor skills, and lots of fun with peers. Children must be fully potty trained before they are eligible to register. Winter session begins on January 4 and continues until May 27. Registration is ongoing and space is limited!

Ages 3-4 years: Tu/Th 9:00am-12:00pm
Fee: \$600 resident, \$720 non-resident (40 classes)

Ages 4-5 years: M/W/F 9:00am-1:00pm
Fee: \$1160 resident, \$1392 non-resident (60 classes)

Instructors: Gaye Houchens, Brenna Lauer
**Pre-School Program is licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education*
Call the City of Greenbelt Recreation Department for more information at 301-397-2200.

CARES INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

Greenbelt CARES offers Individual Adult Counseling. Individual counseling is conducted using a Cognitive Behavioral Approach. Counselors work with clients to determine the goals of therapy, and then help clients implement strategies that improve overall functioning. Services are free of charge for Greenbelt residents, and for those in several zip codes surrounding the city. CARES currently has immediate openings for appointments.

GREENBELT CARES FREE BABYSITTING COURSE

Tuesday, December 29,
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road,

Each student will receive a packet of materials to bring home. The course is targeted towards students who have completed grades 5-8. The course will teach students the safety and responsibility issues of babysitting.

Parents and students wanting additional information and enrollment should call Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau, 301-345-6660, ext.2016.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee.

For information call 301-474-8000.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Greenbelt City Council will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building. This meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) for the FBI.
For further information, please call 301-474-3870.

DISCOUNTED COMPOST BINS!

If you are a Greenbelt resident, you are invited to pick up a discounted compost bin on
**New Year’s Eve - Thursday, December 31
9:30 am - 10:30 am.**



Come to 555 Crescent Road past the chain link fence and follow the signs. Compost bins are \$30 for Greenbelt residents only. Please pay with check or cash. Make your check payable to NIE Institute. These bins go for \$70 at home depot. We can offer them for \$30 thanks to our collaboration with Doug Alexander from Backyardcomposting.org and Newspaper In Education Institute.

VISIT OUR ADOPTABLE PETS OVER THE HOLIDAYS AT THE

Greenbelt Animal Shelter

550-A Crescent Road 301-474-6124

Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm

Maddie, a cane corso female, was given up by her owners who no longer wanted her after she had given birth to litters of puppies. She was recently spayed and also had a non-cancerous growth removed from her back. She is a very friendly dog and deserves a good home, preferably one with a yard since she is a big dog.



Visit Maddie and all her friends at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

See pets at www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter

COMMUNITY ART DROP-IN

Sunday, January 3 from 1-3pm

Greenbelt Community Center-15 Crescent Road

Free Art Workshops

Room 113: Painting Party with Kathy Karlson
Room 204: GATe Open Lab. Watch young animators and try your hand at Flash.

Also, exhibit *Oriented Strands: Paintings by Chris Zickefoose* in the art gallery. Museum exhibit is *The Knowing Hands that Carve This Stone: The New Deal Art of Lenore Thomas Straus*.

For more information about City of Greenbelt art programs, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts or call 301-397-2208.

Dog Shot at Greenbelt Dog Park, Two Investigations Will Occur

by Sue Krofchik

An off-duty D.C. Metropolitan police sergeant shot a trained service dog belonging to a hearing-impaired woman the morning of Sunday, December 13 while both were at the city-owned dog park on Hanover Drive. The police officer reported that the dog “ran out of the enclosure in an aggressive manner with teeth bared. She feared for her safety, produced a handgun and fired a shot at the dog,” according to George Mathews, Greenbelt Police Department public information officer, and information in the department’s weekly crime report dated December 16. The off-duty officer also said that the dog owner was still inside the park with her two other dogs when the shot was fired. The off-duty officer called 911 at 6:30 a.m., the time of the shooting. That dispatcher notified Greenbelt police a dog had been shot.

A police investigation is in progress. After its conclusion the city Department of Planning and Development, under which Animal Control is organized, will conduct an independent investigation.

Cleo, the dog that was shot and did survive, is a pit bull trained as a service dog belonging to LaToya Plummer, who is deaf. She depends on Cleo and two other trained service dogs. All three dogs were present at the dog park that Sunday morning. The name of the police officer has not been made public.

Owner’s Account

On television channel WUSA-9, Prince George’s County Bureau Chief Scott Broom reported on the incident December 18, wherein Plummer gave her account of what happened through a sign language interpreter. Cleo was walking behind her, off the leash, when a woman approached her with a smaller dog on a lead. Plummer said she did not know anything was wrong until her other two service dogs, which she was loading in her car, began barking and that, being deaf, she “did not know why. (She) did not hear a gunshot and did not see a gun.” She had no idea what was going on until Cleo came to her limping badly and bleeding. She said she was confused and thought Cleo had been bitten, so she took her to a veterinarian, who discovered she had been shot. The bullet passed completely through her torso near the hip area. She was treated and released.

Plummer described herself in the WUSA report as being “stunned” to learn Cleo had been shot, and feels the person responsible should be charged with felony animal cruelty. She said the woman did not have appropriate credentials with her and did not announce herself as a police officer.

According to Mathews, the off-duty officer told the responding Greenbelt detective that after the gunshot she attempted to speak with the dog owner but was unable to converse with her. (It is not known if the woman’s deafness was recognized at the time.) She told the woman she was calling the police and did so, at the 6:30 a.m. time of the incident. Mathews also said Greenbelt police received a call that



Greenbelt Dog Park is enjoyed by many residents.

same day at 5:45 p.m. from a woman about an injured dog who may have been in a fight.

Park Users

This reporter visited the dog park on Sunday, December 20 during the 8 a.m. hour and found two dog owners with their dogs using it. Windsor Green resident Barbara Mohr said she heard about the shooting but does not know the dogs. She admits not knowing the details of what happened but is appalled a law enforcement professional would shoot a dog. “Hell, the woman is deaf. I don’t know her dog but if it’s a service dog, it has been trained.” Mohr went on to say the dog park is a godsend to her because she can no longer take her dog on walks. She considers it a safe place. “There have been very few incidents with dogs and when there is, owners are either not paying attention or are over-reacting.” The other park user, Greenbriar resident Alan Goldberg, also described the park as a safe and good place for dogs.

Gates

“The gate is crucial,” stressed Amanda Brozana, acting president of the Greenbelt Dog Park Association. “Eighty percent of fights happen at the gate.” She said the deaf community is very concerned about the shooting and other recent incidents affecting their safety. They and she have a hard time understanding how, in a park with two secure gates, a dog could get out.

The dog park consists of two fenced areas sharing part of a common fence. Each area has its own secure entrance/exit with a vestibule between the outer entrance gate and the inner gate allowing access into the actual play area. Both gates are secure and require two motions to release the locking mechanism.

“Nothing has ever risen to this level of seriousness,” said Celia Craze, director of the Department of Planning and Community Development which oversees Animal Control, when asked if there have

been other major incidents. She added that there have been very, very few problems – usually disagreements since it opened almost 20 years ago. Craze also addressed the issue of the pit bull breed, banned in Prince George’s County. They are allowed to be in Greenbelt by virtue of it having its own government and police force.

City Dog Park

The City of Greenbelt Dog Park is the first of its kind in Maryland, established in October 1996 to promote responsible pet ownership and enhance canine training, behavior and exercise opportunities. It is only for the use of Greenbelt residents living within city limits. Users must apply for a permit for each of their dogs, at \$5 each, valid for the life of the dog. Each dog within the park must be wearing an up-to-date rabies vaccination tag, a Prince George’s County animal license tag and the city dog park tag. Other rules also apply, one of which states no more than two dogs per owner are allowed in the park at the same time.

Commentary Outliving Your Light Bulbs

by Cathie Meetre

This is a message to Greenbelters considering retirement or to those already retired. The News Review exhorts you to set an exciting new goal based on today’s technology: Outlive your LEDs.

Only recently, lightbulbs were incandescently short-lived – burning brightly, hotly and shortly while using lots of energy. Even a so-called long-life bulb had more in common with a fruit fly than a human. But today’s LEDs are rated for something like 23 years (though how they know this given they’ve only existed for about 10 is hard to say). This means seniors are in danger of being outlived by their light bulbs. Don’t let this happen to you.

The productive lives of Greenbelters have been extended by modern medicine, better knowledge of what’s healthy and by exercise – for many fortunate individuals. Today’s seniors are a far cry from their grandparents, whose lives were harsher and who had often paid a long-term price for the deprivations and hardships of the 1930s and 1940s. Especially in Greenbelt, there are so many avenues for seniors to be active and engaged that there’s hardly any excuse for staying home.

The Holy Cross Hospital-sponsored senior exercise class at the Community Center on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings hosts a positive mob scene comprised of participants ranging in age from 55 to 90, at every level of fitness and capability. It’s free and life-affirming.

If a healthy mind in a healthy body is a means to outwit the lightbulb menace, then volunteering and doing unto others is an excellent strategy that provides two-way benefits. For newly retiring individuals, it is as important to find the right volunteer role as it was to find the right job. Flexibility, nobility of purpose, human contact and new challenges are all valid drivers for volunteer choices.

This newspaper often requests volunteers for community organizations – this includes the News Review itself, but also the numerous organizations that power our town. There’s a role for every talent and a niche for every interest. As 2016 approaches, choose where you can serve. Interview the organization you’re interested in to see if there’s a fit. Turn your energy into community power.

And don’t let your lightbulbs get away with murder.



Wishing the Greenbelt
Community Joy and Peace
During the Holidays
and Throughout
the New Year!

Beltway Plaza Mall
6000 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 345-1500



Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-9 pm,
Sun Noon - 6 p.m.
Like us on Facebook
www.beltwayplazamall.com

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women,
men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

Letters continued

editor by profession, Ken would have appreciated the careful editing and beautiful color reproduction of his photo. The story appears on page 4 of the December 17, 2015 News Review.

John McDiarmid
(Note: We are not able to print in color on page 4, the obituary page, but photos may be in color on our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com)

Thanks, Public Works
An enormous shout out to Public Works! The morning after errant fishing lines on the shore of Greenbelt Lake were brought to the attention of Greenbelt City Council and the city manager, we saw Public Works employees out clearing line. Day after day we encountered them on our daily walks around the lake, and they were not only doing a great job finding and removing the fishing line and other debris, but were friendly, cheerful and a general pleasure to interact with.
We love Greenbelt for many reasons, but to be sure the general cleanliness, walkability and warmth are all significant factors for us. Thank you to Public Works for your part in all of that.
Kyla and Daniel Hamlin

Will Activists Take Away Our Animal Shelter?
I cannot distinguish Brian Almquist’s letter of December 10, and Susan Smithers’ and Ashley Landreth’s letters of Dec 17, from attempts to get the Greenbelt Animal Shelter closed down, based upon their arguments as to whether it is a no-kill shelter. Never mind that all of the cats and dogs there would have long since died in the county “most-kill” animal shelter, since all of the other no-kill shelters would only be taking in adoptable animals.

But if the Greenbelt Animal Shelter were to identify itself as a “some-kill” facility then fewer pet owners would surrender their pets there, and would instead drop them by the roadside where they might meet an earlier demise and would miss out on adoption-oriented rehab by shelter workers and volunteers.
Landreth asks, “...is the council aware of any grants received by the city due to the claim of a no kill facility status?” But I ask, if she were managing the shelter and were to realize that more cats and dogs could become rehabilitated and adopted if no-kill based funding could be accessed, what choice would she make?
Would Almquist and his supporters be happier if the Greenbelt Animal shelter were to identify itself as, “no-kill for adoptable animals?”
It is a puzzle to me that Brian Almquist, having a history of being a shelter contributor and volunteer, would resume his GNR writings from July and August which seem indirectly aimed at getting more of the animals killed. So, if he, Smithers and Landreth basically have no realistic concern about the well-being of homeless animals I suspect that their agenda lacks transparency and integrity.
But isn’t the no-kill idea just an illusory feel-good buzz word? With cats here for millions of years, their own rules do not

comprise a no-kill policy. Nor are the human homes they find themselves in no-kill, nor are vets’ offices or roadways or neighborhoods (as some neighbors will poison cats). And our own wars and mass shootings demonstrate humans’ inability to establish a strict no-kill policy.
Why not let prevention decrease the demand on shelters? For example, pet problems are generally created in our own homes due to our misunderstanding of the animals, and because of insufficient time and effort. Mieshelle Nagelschneider relates in her book that 50 percent of cats are put down because of litter box problems which are always caused by humans. And she solves a host of other cat-human problems. I regret not reading her book sooner. See her interview online.
Similarly, one can access the online advice of Caesar the dog whisperer and others. All dog owners, no matter how friendly their dogs, should immediately access Caesar’s warnings about dogs and children.
Owners should read several books about how to care for their pets. Also, volunteering at the shelter is teaching me things I had not learned from the books. Right now the friendly large and muscular (if not famous) Ernie Cat is at my place taking a one-week vacation from the shelter.
Bill Norwood

Letter On Climate Change Was Sent
I wanted to point out some misinformation reported in both the December 10 and December 17 issues of the News Review, regarding the petitions at the November 23 City Council meeting. Specifically, I am referring to Stephanie Warner’s petition on climate change (to write a letter to President Obama, prior to November 30, when the COP21 climate talks would be starting in Paris).
The reporter explained in both papers that the council scheduled both items (including the one on Syrian Refugees) for “further discussion on December 14.”
This is actually incorrect. On the topic of climate change, the council voted to “suspend the standing rules” and add the item to the agenda that night (November 23). It became item number 23 and was discussed at 11:15 p.m. with those residents who stayed. Readers can access the meeting to watch on the city’s website, greenbeltmd.gov at hour minute marker.
The council agreed to use the draft version edited by councilmember Judith Davis. The staff reworked the draft a few days later and the final letter was mailed to President Obama on December 3 signed by all of the councilmembers.
I am only pointing this out to help readers understand the concept of “suspending the standing

rules.” In rare instances, when a petitioner brings a time-sensitive matter to council, council is willing to add it to the agenda for the same evening. This also allowed more time on December 14 for other topics (purchase of 10-A Crescent for the Greenbelt Museum; petition about Syrian refugees).
I greatly appreciate council’s flexibility with our petition. It wrote a great letter.
Thanks,
Lore Rosenthal
Greenbelt Climate Action Network

New Year's Celebrations
As many of you know, the last three years, wonderful folks such as Susan Barnett, Jean Newcombe, Frank Gervasi, Barbara Havekost, Sylvia Lewis, and the many “pollinators”, and the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation, and I have put together a New Year’s program at the Greenbelt Arts Center. It’s important to note that the productions would not have happened without the Arts Center staff making the space and time available.
This production is truly a variety show celebrating the arts and our wonderful community spirit. From music, including the brilliant guitarists Jan Knutson, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Bowie Police Chief John Nesky, (thanks for arranging his participation, Greenbelt Captain Thomas Kemp) bass player Glenn Harris, to contributions from Greenbelt MakerSpace, Utopia Film Festival, and Matt the Magician, a very talented guitarist, those attending have had an enjoyable evening. However, this production requires a great deal of preparation and coordination. Forgive me, but I did not get going on this soon enough.

It has been a work of love for our community and paid for by volunteers. In the coming year, the terrific volunteers will be working towards becoming a non-profit entity which will apply for grants. We wish for the effort, to grow in both patronage, sponsorships and grants. Attendance figures have grown from 45 attending in 2012 to 80 people last year, 2014.
The capacity for the Arts Center is 100. If we get to the point where the demand exceeds that number, we will explore using additional facilities as well. Perhaps, continued growth of the program may convince the City to explore bringing back a City run event in the future. Regardless, our volunteer program will return next year.
In the meantime, in the spirit of working together as one community, it’s not too late to make a reservation for a healthy buffet meal and excellent entertainment at the New Deal Café. Entertainment includes “Saskia” performing music from the ’50’s through the ’90’s, and “The Truly Unruly Band. It’ll be topped off with a

glass of free champagne. Call (301) 474-5642 for more information.
Happy New Year to all!!
Konrad Herling

On Syrian Refugees, Greenbelt Leads
The plight of Syrian refugees has been in everyone’s living room. From images of people drowned trying to make a sea crossing to those struggling to travel by foot everyone has seen pictures of the refugees pouring out of Syria. Whether the pictures focus on the men leading the groups, women and children struggling with all their earthly possessions, or the care takers working to help those in need, Greenbelt citizens have become well aware of those who have felt compelled to leave not only their homes but also their homeland. For some, the horrors of ISIL

The Greenbelt City Council took the step of being the first city in Prince George’s County (and only the third city in Maryland, behind Baltimore and Takoma Park) to express its welcome to Syrian refugees by sending a letter to Governor Hogan. Over two City Council meetings there was overwhelming and unanimous support for this position from Greenbelt residents.
Greenbelt is a modern city. Greenbelters are what ISIL both fears and hates. When Greenbelters shun the very people whom ISIL shuns, Greenbelters make common cause with ISIL even if it is unintentional. Fortunately, Greenbelt is not only modern in its graces, Greenbelt is modern in its outlook. Once the United States has made a determination that a family needs a place to live and has legally accepted that family into the United States, Greenbelt is a great place for that family to come! While Greenbelters might disagree among themselves about federal policy and the hows and whys of federal decision making, Greenbelters all know what to do when a family has legally been accepted into the United States. Greenbelt makes them welcome.
As Silke Pope knows, as her family were immigrants to the United States, Greenbelt is a place that does its best to make everyone feel welcome and to derive community strength from diversity. While Pope was not comfortable with the wording of the letter and so, voted against it

in council, she supported the concept of a welcoming Greenbelt for legal immigrants (as well as everyone else).
Konrad Herling made a moving speech calling for Greenbelt to be “bold,” and with staunch support from Judith Davis (who insisted she would not vote for something less powerful than the existing letter) and Leta Mach (who supported “a strong welcoming message”) the proposal to send the letter moved forward. Rodney Roberts felt that the letter was not strong enough, whereas Mayor Emmett Jordan felt that the letter could be more concise. Ed Putens emphasized that the Greenbelt City Council was “not afraid of anything and that [the City Council] had taken on a lot of things, the KKK and everything This council is not afraid!” In the end the entire council, with the exception of Pope, supported sending the letter that was based on a petition signed by hundreds of Greenbelters and presented by Josh Hamlin.
Surely the community is not unanimous in its support for Syrian refugees and likely not even the concept of being a welcoming city. Despite that, the city as a whole defines at least part of its identity from such strong statements as the Community Pledge and such decisive action as this most recent letter.
Brett Fishburne

Holiday Greetings

To Friends,
old and new,
And a Healthy
and Happy
New Year, too.
Elizabeth Pels Nash


*Wishing You
Every Happiness
This Holiday Season
And Throughout
The Coming Year!*

❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️

Emmett V. Jordan
Greenbelt City Council - Mayor

*Wishing all Greenbelters
Happy Holidays and
a Joyous New Year*

Robert and Sylvia Lewis





*The Board of Directors and Staff of GHI
Would Like to Wish
All our Members and Friends in the
Greenbelt Community*

Happy Holidays

*May Your Homes and Hearts be Filled
with Peace, Hope and Joy this Season
and in the New Year.*

Abundance of Wildlife Found at Our Lake

by Mike Reinsel



PHOTO BY JOHANNES MARKUS

A beaver scratches itself while a family member swims by.

Autumn is a season of change at Greenbelt Lake. Buddy Attick Park trails lead through bright colors of fall foliage, and only weeks later the trees are bare. Squirrels, rabbits and even deer are seen feeding in the woods preparing for winter. Birds leave on migration, some pass through and some are yearlong residents. Ducklings have grown and flown. This year's new osprey and cormorant visitors to the park are gone.

What natural changes are ushered in by autumn? What are the season's new ducks on the lake? We can all stroll and observe.

At dawn on Thanksgiving Day, a beaver swims to the lodge toting a branch covered with small twigs, perhaps a feast. Two slaps of the tail bring all of the beaver kits home before the sun breaks the gray horizon. After a night of work under the full Beaver Moon of November, the beaver family swims together in front of the lodge, then retreats into its dark confines.

On the far shore, a great blue heron surveys his domain from a log as the first rays of light find him. This sizeable wading bird will wander off before the ice sets in. Already departed is his

lesser cousin the green heron, once called the red-shouldered heron and little green heron, which shares the statuesque pose when fishing the shallows.

The belted kingfishers give the rattle-call with each swooping flight from tree to tree on the shoreline. They hover, then plunge for fish, lingering as hard freeze approaches. Nearby, a long tunnel excavated in a bank is the kingfisher's home. The male kingfisher is identified by the white collar, unkempt crest and large, pointed bill. The female belted kingfisher wears a chestnut brown belt of feathers across her white breast.

The sight and sound of geese remind us of the call of the quest. But some of the lake's Canada geese do not migrate; their stock is from research and wildlife management. Canada geese have been rightly called long-necked goose and honker. The male's call is low ahonk. The female's is a higher hink. On the lake, geese in their gaggle paddle in a row at dusk. In daily flight, they are a skein of geese; flying in a V, they are a wedge.

The lake's floating mixed ducks are called a raft. Sudden turns and pairings break up the raft by species. The common mallard male was called green-head and the female gray duck. The mallards' iridescent

heads flash from green to black to purple in sun and shadow as they dabble. Mallard quacking is made by the female or hen, the nasal rhaeb and whistle is from the male or drake.

American wigeon have a half-green head and may be called green-headed wigeon. Dusk draws wigeons to congregate as a knob at the lakeshore. The wigeon's whee-WHOO whistle can sound like a toddler's laughter.

The ring-necked duck, which carried the moniker ring-billed blackhead, floats and dives in great numbers at the lake when cold weather prevails.

Also appearing is another diver, the diminutive ruddy duck, appropriately carrying the titles dinky, bluebill and sleepy-head (because it tucks its head under a wing and naps during the day). This little fowl has 63 common names. The wood duck eats whole acorns and is seen in groups high in the trees of Buddy Attick Park.

Often solitary in the center of the lake, the duck-like pied-billed grebe, in some parts known as devil-diver, has the amazing ability to sink any amount

even up to its head. Hooded mergansers appear as white spots on the lake from a distance. Their courtship rituals, sustained even in cold weather, are comic. Their antics are accented by the males' pompadour-style head feathers and rockabilly crooners' gyrations.

We are now well into December, the winter solstice arrives and in the odd warmth, geese and ducks are again scarce at Greenbelt Lake. The great blue heron still makes his rounds, flying low over the water, angling in ice free waters. A cold snap will soon bring in multitudes of waterfowl that will stay for the winter.



PHOTO BY JOHANNES MARKUS

A heron is reflected in still waters at Greenbelt Lake.

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Show Trip To South Carolina Beats the Odds in October

by Kathleen McFarland

“Is the trip still on?” “Are we still going?” The calls and emails kept coming to Mary and Barry Moien. We’d all been watching the news about the damage from Hurricane Joaquin and the devastating flooding in South Carolina. The date for the long-planned show trip to Myrtle Beach, October 12, was fast approaching. It was the first trip this year, and the 40-some prospective travelers were ready to roll. Yes, Mary answered each question, “but Charleston is iffy.”

By the time of departure, the situation in South Carolina had improved. The bus left the Library parking lot in great weather, which continued throughout the trip. Most of the passengers had been on the Mary and Barry trips before, but there were a few new faces. There were frequent stops, a new collection of jokes from Barry and lunch at Cracker Barrel; and by the time we reached our hotel in Myrtle Beach, the new people had become part of the family.

Brookgreen Gardens

The first day the bus took us to beautiful Brookgreen Gardens, a national historical landmark, in Murrell’s Inlet, about an hour’s drive from our hotel. From the windows we could see water from the floods still standing in the ditches along the roads and little ponds beneath each cluster of loblolly pines.

At the Gardens, we boarded a tram which took us through parts of the thousands of acres of beautiful gardens, sculptures,



At the Beach: Kathleen McFarland, JoAnn McCarthy, Betty Triplett, Donna Peterson, Marti Galvin, Barbara Osborne. Note the palmetto trees, the symbol of South Carolina.

woods and open areas. We could choose to hop off at one of the attractions along the way. My little group spent time in the Butterfly House and wandered through the Zoo of domestic animals, admiring the centuries-old live oak trees festooned with Spanish moss. We had lunch in a charming restaurant near the Sculpture Garden. The only attraction not operating because of the recent flooding was the Pontoon Boat Ride, which would have been fun, moving through the ricefields, learning about the history of the Low Country, as this area of the Carolinas is known, looking for alligators and egrets.

But we had to leave at an appointed time in order to get to

our next all-important destination: Dinner! Each day of the trip, dinners had been planned for us at different restaurants, mostly seafood places. We feasted each day on fish of all kinds, crabs, oysters and wonderful hushpuppies and breads. We were pleased to see that everywhere we went there were signs that Maryland is recognized as a great seafood state. One dinner was at the Chesapeake House, and I had lunch one day at Joe’s Crab Shack. I asked the waitress if it was connected to the Joe’s in Greenbelt; she didn’t really know, but said “she thought it was.” Barry had warned us in advance, “Nobody will lose weight on this trip.”

That evening, after returning to our hotel to freshen up we went to the Legends Theatre to see the first show of the trip. Rod Stewart, Reba McEntire, the Blues Brothers, Lionel Hampton and finally Elvis headlined the show. They were impersonators, of course, but all were so talented, and looked so much like the real personalities, that it seemed

See TRIP, page 12



Elvis sings at the Legends.

To All My Greenbelt Friends and Neighbors

May the spirit of the holidays bring you peace and happiness now and throughout the New Year!

Judith “J” Davis

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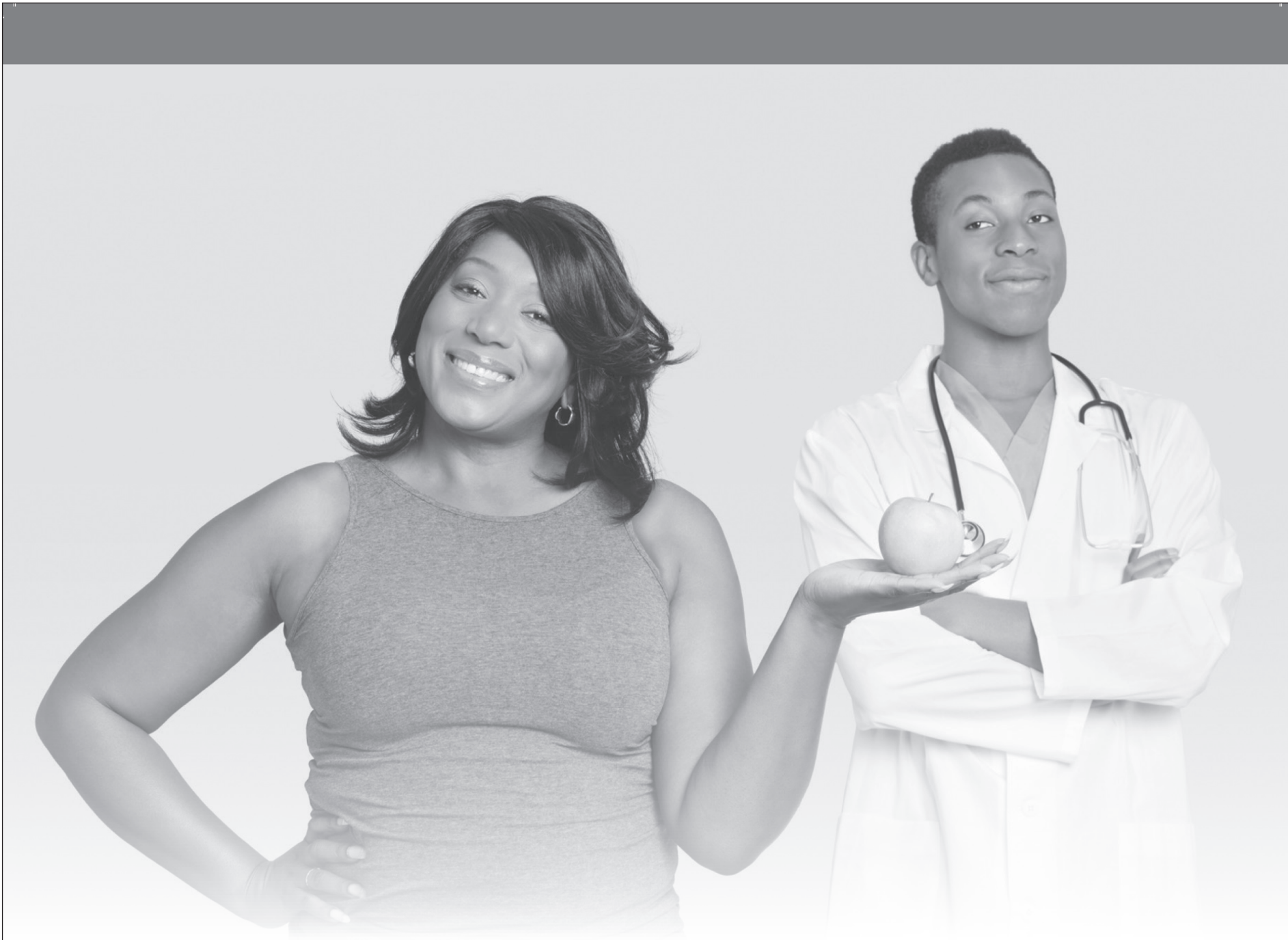
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Nabisco Assorted Ritz Crackers 6-13 oz. \$2⁹⁹		Kellogg’s Rice Krispies or Crispix Cereal 12 oz. \$2⁵⁰
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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery
December 10, 9:45 p.m., Mandan Road near Canning Terrace. A man walking to a residence was approached from behind by a man who pointed a handgun at him and announced a robbery. He got the man’s wallet and carry bag and fled on foot toward Ora Glen Drive.

December 12, 4:17 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. A man agreed to sell a hoverboard to another man and met the buyer in the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace to complete the sale. When the man met the buyer, he was approached by a second man, armed with a handgun. The buyer and the second man then took three hoverboards and fled on foot.

December 14, 8:21 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. A man agreed to purchase a cell phone on Craigslist and went to the 6000 block Springhill Drive to complete the sale. He was met by two men who asked him to come into an apartment hallway. Then one of the sellers displayed a handgun and demanded money. When buyer refused to give it to them they fled on foot.

DWI/DUI
December 11, 2 a.m., Greenbelt Road near Frankfort Drive. A 37-year-old resident was arrested and charged with alcohol- and traffic-related charges after being stopped for a traffic violation. He was released on citations pending trial.

Sex Offense
December 15, 6:45 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A woman who had exited the Giant grocery store was approached by a man who asked for money. When she said no, he touched her inappropriately and fled on foot. He is described as black, 14 to 17 years old, 5’2” tall, 120 pounds, wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt with different shades of blue on the sleeves, dark colored pants and black shoes.

Assault
December 14, 7 a.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. A man who answered a knock at his door found three people wearing masks standing there. One of them allegedly punched him and hit his leg with a stick. The three people then fled on foot. The man received a minor injury to his leg.

Miscellaneous
December 10, 9:44 p.m., 7800 block Greenbrook Terrace. A 22-year-old resident was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after a verbal altercation with another person. She was released on citation pending trial.

December 11, 1:37 p.m., 7601 Hanover Parkway. A 16-year-old resident was arrested for possession of marijuana and disruption

of school activities at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He was released to a parent pending action by the school board and the Juvenile Justice System.

December 12, 2:14 p.m., 99 Centerway. A 35-year-old non-resident was arrested and charged with drinking in public at the Community Center. He was released on citation to the custody of the Washington County Sheriff’s Office for service of an open arrest warrant.

December 15, 8:55 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A man attempted to pay for merchandise at Big Lots and fled when the cashier discovered the bill was counterfeit.

Vandalism
December 11, 10:38 a.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. Graffiti was spray painted on walls of an apartment building. A witness described the person doing this as white, 5’8’ tall, 140 pounds with tattoos on his neck, wearing a brown checkered jacket, brown pants and black boots.

December 15, 6 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. The bedroom window of a residence was broken out.

Vehicle Crime
Three vehicles were stolen, a teal 2007 Volkswagen Passat station wagon with Md. tags 3AK483, taken from the 7800 block Mandan Road; a silver 4-door 2015 Volkswagen Jetta with Va. tags EC4140, taken from Mandan Road near Canning Terrace and a black 2013 Hyundai with Md. tags 8AX1278, taken from the 7800 block Cloister Place.

Two vehicles were recovered. A 2005 Volvo V70 station wagon was recovered by D.C. Metropolitan police in the 2000 block Fort Davis Street S.E., in Washington. The rear tag at the time of theft, N.Y. F654DA, was not recovered and is still out as stolen. A 2015 Chevrolet Cruise reported stolen to the Metropolitan Police Department during a carjacking on December 13 was recovered in the 6100 block Cherrywood Lane.

Four thefts from vehicles were reported. In the 8000 block Mandan Road rear Md. tag 06704Y was taken. In the 9100 block Springhill Lane a credit card was taken and used later to make unauthorized purchases. Several artist sketch books were removed in the 5800 block Cherrywood Lane after a passenger side window was broken to gain entry. A work-van door lock was tampered with in the 9000 block Breeze-wood Terrace and welding equipment was taken.

An act of vandalism occurred in the 9100 block Edmonston Terrace, where four tires on a vehicle were flattened.

REFUGEES continued from page 1

December 14
The council room was packed on December 14, in part because of an earlier public hearing on the expansion of the city museum, but most of the audience remained for the discussion of the letter, despite the lateness of the hour.

Although a great deal of time during the meeting was spent rehashing the varying uses different government jurisdictions make of letters, proclamations and resolutions to convey a statement or position, the city’s long tradition of using plain-language letters to explain its thinking, rather than a series of “whereas” statements, continued to carry the day as the communication method of choice.

Council Views
Jordan asked councilmembers for their comments before moving to the audience in the room. For the council, two different issues were involved in the decision. One was the willingness to be compassionate in accepting refugees into our city during a time of need. The other was whether the city council should take a formal stand on behalf of the city about a subject not defined as an area of municipal authority. In general, councilmembers were in agreement on the former. The second issue was less clear and ultimately caused the one dissenting vote from Councilmember Silke Pope.

Councilmember Judith Davis said they had all received communications from people who opposed the letter and did not want the governor to be asked to reconsider his decision. Councilmember Edward Putens also read parts of a message from a resident who stated strongly that councilmembers should not take official positions on matters about which they had not been elected to speak for the city.

In commenting on how controversial the topic had become on a national level, Pope stated her belief that since council elections are non-partisan, there should not

be an official council position, even though as individuals councilmembers should be free to take whatever positions they like.

In addition to Davis, Councilmembers Rodney Roberts, Leta Mach and Konrad Herling all were in strong support of the letter. Jordan and Pope continued to discuss whether changes could be made to the letter that would make it more acceptable but the others were not willing to move in that direction.

Roberts thought the letter should be even stronger than it was. Davis was not willing to consider any changes to the letter that would weaken it. Mach spoke about Greenbelt’s history as a welcoming community. Davis and Herling wanted to see city government begin to plan for the possible arrival of refugees and asked residents to begin to think about what they could do.

Resident Comments
About 15 city residents from the audience spoke, several of them saying they were jettisoning longer comments for shorter ones because of how late it was getting. They were all supportive of the letter and of council’s taking a stand on the issue. No one spoke in opposition.

Hamlin, the originator of the petition to council, said he believed the issue was a local as well as a national one and that councilmembers should speak on it. Although immigration policy may be a federal issue, the ongoing discussion of how Muslims fit into American society is also a local one. He added that if a governor says he speaks for the majority of the state’s residents when that is not the case, he creates a local issue.

Brett Fishburne continued that train of thought by saying that how a governor’s policy affects city policy is a matter of city concern. He added, “When the governor gives directives on who can or cannot come to live in our community, then it becomes a local matter.”

David Lange suggested that most people would think of this as a moral issue, not a partisan issue. He suggested addressing, rather than copying, the letter to a broader audience of elected officials if there was concern that it might look “partisan” as a letter addressed to a Republican governor by a mostly Democratic town.

Marsha Voigt spoke from both her personal and professional experience working with refugees. She asked that the community resolve to bring refugees to Greenbelt and added, “I will do all I can.”

Stephanie Warner addressed a different facet of the situation. While strongly supportive of the letter and of Greenbelt’s welcoming refugees, she was concerned that the situation of Muslims already living here is being overlooked. She encouraged residents and councilmember to take a leadership role in understanding and addressing the safety and welfare of our current Muslim residents.

David Alexander pointed out that there are people who have already been in the system for two years and will be coming sooner rather than later. Regarding council’s role, he commented that while councilmembers are supposed to represent their constituents, it is sometimes necessary to lead rather than follow their constituents.

“You can’t wait for everyone you represent to come around,” he said. “Sometimes you have to take leadership and do the right thing for Greenbelt.”

Other speakers in support included Lore Rosenthal, Michael Hartman, Naomi Littlefield and Melissa Ehrenreich.

In addition to approving the sending of the letter, council also voted to refer to the Community Relations Advisory Board the question of what the next steps should be for city government and residents.

Red Cross Seeks Holiday Blood Donations

As millions of Americans make their final gift purchases this holiday season, the American Red Cross reminds eligible donors to give the most meaningful gift of all – the gift of life – by donating blood or platelets.

Blood donations often decline during the holidays when busy schedules, inclement weather and seasonal illnesses can make it more difficult for donors to make and keep donation appointments, but the need for blood doesn’t get a break for the holiday season. During the final two weeks of the year, the Red Cross needs to collect more than 175,000 blood and platelet donations for those depending on transfusions at hospitals and transfusion centers locally and across the country.

“When you donate blood or platelets, you are not only giving the gift of life to someone, you are also giving their loved ones hope for more holidays and joyous occasions together,” said Natalie Haney, director of donor recruitment for the Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region. “To the parents of a child going through cancer treatment or family of an accident victim, that is a priceless gift.”

Blood donors of all types, particularly AB, O, A negative and B negative, and platelet donors are encouraged to make an appointment to donate and help ensure hospitals have the blood they need for patients this winter. As a special thank you for taking the time to donate, those who come out to give December 23 through January 3 will receive a long-sleeve Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

In addition to the 3 million volunteer blood and platelet donors who roll up a sleeve to give each year, Red Cross Blood Services also depends on about 84,000 volunteers across the country to fulfill its lifesaving mission. Volunteers serve in a number of roles, from hosting blood drives in their communities to transporting blood products for patients in need.

More information on local volunteer opportunities is available online at www.redcrossblood.org, or by Contacting Terry Ann Karloff at 410-764-4602 or email TerryAnn.Karloff@redcross.org.

Donation appointments can be made by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). The Red Cross urges donors

who have made a commitment to donate during the holiday period to keep their appointments. Each appointment kept, and each donation given, offers hope to a patient in need.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.
Call 1-866-411-TIPS.
People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.



TRIP continued from page 9

like we were being entertained by the stars themselves. We liked them all, but especially Elvis!

The Beach

The second day at Myrtle Beach was a full one. First we attended a morning show at the Palace Theatre, billed as Hot Jersey Nights, featuring Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The show drew a fair-sized crowd even at that early hour, mostly from senior tours like ours. The four guys impersonating the famous foursome gave it their all, throwing in some Motown and Beach Boys tunes in addition to the ones made famous by the original Four Seasons like Sherry, Walk Like a Man and Big Girls Don't Cry. One a cappella set, sung by just the four men without their back-up band, was beautiful.

After the show, we were bused the short distance to the actual beach. The weather was sunny and cool, perfect for walking along the boardwalk or shopping in the stores nearby. Some of us enjoyed just sitting and watching. A few young people played among the waves, and two brave souls from our group boarded the giant wheel overlooking the beach and took photos from above. We scattered to and fro in little groups, choosing among the many delis and restaurants for lunch, but trying not to eat too much since we'd be having another early delicious dinner and after that, another show, at a different venue.

The show that night was the Carolina Opry, with present-day country and western singers and dancers, some of them obviously well known to country music fans. The hit of the show, for me, was when three of the women who had earlier been dancing in glittery costumes and boots, donned long gowns and sang, a cappella, a beautiful and haunting tune, Down to the River to Pray, as in the movie Oh Brother, Where Art Thou. Our busload of travelers returned to the hotel, pleasantly tired.

Charleston

We left for Charleston early in the morning on our last full day in South Carolina. The trip by bus took about two and a half hours. We met our tour guide at the Welcome Center and she rode with us on the bus, pointing out every landmark and filling us in on the history of the city. We rode through the Citadel, the famous military school, and all around the neighborhoods, including the historic section called Rainbow Row because of the beautiful homes painted in pastel colors, and ended at Charleston

Harbor, at the spot where Confederate forces fired cannons across the harbor at Fort Sumter, starting the Civil War.

Our guide left us at the famous City Market to wander around on our own. Luckily, this area had been spared from the flooding; everything seemed to be ship-shape. We broke into little groups for shopping and sight-seeing and met up with our bus at the appointed time and place for the drive back to Myrtle Beach and (guess what) dinner, this time at the Giant Crab restaurant, and then off to our final show, at the Alabama Theatre,



Donna Peterson gets ready to dine at the Giant Crab Restaurant.

founded by the famous country music band Alabama, who had roots in Myrtle Beach.

An audience of thousands was in the theater for this last show, a sophisticated, professional show of family entertainment. There was singing and dancing of all types to appeal to all generations, accompanied by a large band and all the lights and video back-grounds available through new technology, really a knock-out show. The music was great, but the two acts that captivated most of the audience were a ventriloquist, Todd Oliver, who is an animal lover and works often with his real pet dog as his dummy, and a comedian who uses the stage name Ricky Mokel, whose original style had us laughing all through the show.

It was very late when we returned to the hotel, and we got our suitcases ready for an early departure the next morning. The trip back home started off with a song to the tune of Give My Regards to Broadway, honoring one of our own, Outstanding Citizen of 2015 Solange Hess. After that, the group on the bus seemed to grow more quiet, some of us actually dozing in our seats, others recounting their shopping experiences. We decided to forego supper in order to arrive home earlier. As the bus turned into the Library parking lot, thank yous and goodbyes could be heard all around and Barry was peppered with the biggest question: When will the next trip be?

Post 136 Remembers WWII At Pearl Harbor Day Forum

by Butch Hicks

A Pearl Harbor Day-Fall National Security Commission Forum was held by Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 on December 7.

Speakers described World War II political and military issues in the European Theater of Operations and one soldier's combat experiences after the D-Day invasion of Europe. The program recognized the 74th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. The Post also concurrently hosted the annual Fall National Security Forum event.

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett V. Jordan and Mayor pro tem Judith Davis opened the event by acknowledging the service and

sacrifices of military members in WWII and how personal the war was with family members who had served in units in various theaters of operations.

Dr. David Hogan of the Army Center of Military History described how America moved from an isolationist nonparticipation in WWII to its full scale participation after the Pearl Harbor attack by Japan on December 7, 1941. He focused on details of the European campaign illustrating how political considerations, Allied collaboration and military leadership permitted joint operations across Europe that culminated in Germany's unconditional surrender in 1945.

Alan Lukens, another speaker at the event, was a WWII veteran of the D-Day invasion who went ashore at Utah Beach with the Army's 20th Armored Division. He described several encounters with German soldiers but none affected him more than when elements of his unit entered the Dachau Concentration Camp.

Joe Rossi of the Legion's National Security Division reiterated the Legion's ongoing program of working with Congress to ensure veterans receive full benefits earned. The National Security Division handles issues that directly affect the lives of military personnel, as well as matters of national and global importance.



D. Michael Duggan, Chairman, Department National Security Commission; Alan Lukens, World War II veteran; Dr. David Hogan, Army Center of Military History; LCDR Warren H. Stark, World War II veteran, served in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters; Post 136 Commander Mike Moore.

Libraries Offer Passport Services

Effective January 4, 2016, passport services will be available at the Hyattsville, Accokeek and Largo-Kettering libraries. The Hyattsville Library will include passport photos with its passport service offering. No appointment is necessary.

Visit pgcmls.info for details on applying for a passport and related fees. Customers planning travel within two weeks must apply for a passport in person at a U.S. Passport Agency or center; expedited fees apply. Those closest to Prince George's County are located in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, Pa. An appointment must be made in advance by calling 877-487-2778. For additional information, check out the U.S. Passport Service Guide at us-passport-service-guide.com/passport-fees.html.

Botanic Garden Offers Jazz

On Tuesday, December 29 from 6 to 9 p.m., the U.S. Botanic Garden presents Project Natale, jazz. Evenings in the Conservatory are magical. Come for live seasonal music during this festive time of year. The garden will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. during this concert series. Limited seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This concert is free; no pre-registration is required.

Candlelight Tour Riversdale Offering

On Wednesday, December 30 at 6 p.m. residents from three eras of Riversdale's history welcome guests to a candlelit museum tour, refreshments, live music and children's activities. There is a small fee. Children under 12 are free accompanied by an adult. The Riversdale House Museum is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Call 301-864-0420, TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.

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American Education Week

Math and Science Teacher Promotes Peace, Acceptance

by Kyla Hanington

“You see the person, you start with peace,” said Dr. Neirouz Mills, fourth grade math and science teacher at Dora Kennedy French Immersion School. “The Hebrew ‘Shalom,’ the Arabic ‘Salaam,” she said, “they are greetings, and they mean ‘peace’.” A Muslim woman from Syria, Mills knows that for many people she stands as a representative of her homeland and her faith.



PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

Neirouz Mills

“I started covering my head because I wanted to show that Muslims are good,” she said during a break in her classroom. “I am this way with the children, to be a good person,” she explained. “When they grow up, maybe they will forget my name, but they will remember that a Muslim teacher made a difference in their life.”

Born in Syria, Mills attended elementary school in Lebanon before moving back to Syria where she completed a master’s in French and a post-master’s degree diploma in education. Given a scholarship to complete a doctorate in applied linguistics in Toulouse, Mills moved to France where she lived for ten years and where she met her husband, originally from Ghana.

“He teaches here, too,” she said of her husband. “It’s a family business.”

Teaching has been her passion since day one. Mills wondered if some of that inspiration came from her mother, who was illiterate. “When my dad fell in love with her, he wanted to find a way to come to the house, so he volunteered to teach her reading

and writing.” Soon her mother learned to read and write and opened a daycare facility, where she taught the young attendees to read and write as well. Mills said her mother, without a diploma, was so adept at teaching that she was eventually called before the principal of a school. “You are a gem,” Mills recalled the principal told her mother. “I want you to teach in my school.” Although her mother did not take the job, her mother’s skill at teaching inspired Mills in her life.

Mills particularly loves the multi-cultural environment at Dora Kennedy. “You have teachers from all over the world,” she said. With different cultures come different approaches and different styles to life and to problem solving. Students benefit from the exposure to such diversity, Mills said. “It gives these kids an opportunity to be really open minded.”

As a Syrian, a Muslim and a woman, Mills “suffered that rejection (prejudice) from everywhere. But,” she said with a smile, “it didn’t stop me from being successful.”

If Mills could give her students one thing, she said, it would be peace. “This is my biggest dream,” she said, “for there to be peace in the world.” Her hope for her students is that they don’t see differences between people as something to be opposed, but rather they see that differences among people bring a wealth and a richness to all.

2016 Democratic Club Board Sworn In



PHOTO BY EMMETT JORDAN

On Friday, December 18th County Councilman Todd Turner swears in the 2016 Roosevelt Democratic Club Board (Joyce Fitzgerald, Keith Bare, Austin Henry, Konrad Herling, Katy Pape, Ryan Bradley, Matt Inzeo, Daryl Pennington, Nicole Williams, Rosemary Bell).

Homeschoolers Visit Berwyn Hts. Firehouse

by Li'l Dan Celdran

Greenbelt homeschoolers visited Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department on December 11. Firefighters Lewis and Bill gave a tour to over 15 children and their parents. Visitors learned how patients are removed from vehicles in car accidents and about the many different tools used on the ladder truck (which can reach 100 feet high) and ambulance. The children were encouraged to climb inside each vehicle and ask questions. Then the group visited the lounge to see where the EMS volunteers eat their meals and hang out. The tour concluded in the training room, where kids could don hats and coats. Each child was offered a goody bag containing activity books and fire safety information. Parents were impressed by the content of the tour and grateful for this learning opportunity.



PHOTO BY LIL DAN CELDRAN

Firefighters Bill (left) and Lewis of the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department demonstrate firefighting and rescue skills to Greenbelt homeschoolers.



The Greenbelt Grasshopper

Welcome to the new “Greenbelt Grasshopper,” a section just for kids! Want to us to feature your artwork? Submit your name, age, and artwork as a .jpg to sfts7@gmail.com. Must be between the ages of 2 to 16.

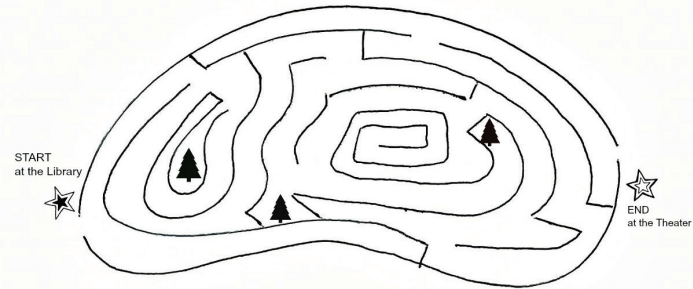
Trivia Time: Eleanor Roosevelt High School was the first high school in the nation to be named after the former first lady.

Riddle in the Middle: What game do cows play at parties? (answer is below)

Joke of the Week: Q: How did the Vikings send secret messages? A: By norse code!

Riddle in the middle answer: mooosical chairs

Today’s Maze: Get Thee to the Greenbelt Theater!



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Zero Waste At Holiday Party

by Erin Josephitis



Public Works Holiday Party Zero Waste Station.


On Friday, December 18, the Public Works Department held its annual holiday party with zero waste efforts in mind. Public Works employees were tested in an experiment to determine whether the presence of a zero waste station would decrease landfill trash. Volunteers from the Pathways School constructed a prototype zero waste station to guide employee behavior towards properly separating recyclables from compostable materials and landfill waste.

All other trash and recycling bins were removed so that employees had no other choice than to properly sort their discarded items. Thanks to the zero waste station, the landfill waste bin only weighed 3.2 pounds of mainly plastic utensils. A total of 11.2 pounds of recyclables (mostly aluminum cans and foil) were

properly sorted and recycled. The majority of the holiday party's waste was 24.8 pounds of compostable napkins, paper plates and food scraps. All of the compostables were delivered to MOM's of College Park Biobin to be later transferred to the Prince George's County Composting Pilot Program at Western Branch.

The experiment demonstrated the importance of a zero waste station, particularly paired bins that are equally accessible. At upcoming parties, consider pairing recycling and landfill bins. If you don't already have a compost bin, consider buying one on New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Public Works Department, 555 Crescent Road. Compost bins are available at a discount for Greenbelt residents only.

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Brick Townhome - Corner Lot - Fireplace, tub, new refinished hardwood flooring, new vinyl, new energy sav. appliances, fresh paint & more. Nice!

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Scott Candey
Catherine Capotosto
Mark Capotosto
Danielle Celtran
Chris Cherry
Joan Chu
Philip Chu
Judy Cocchiaro
Darien Colson-Fearon
Annina Commins
Mary Commins
Rose Commins
Patricia Commins
Walter Commins
Cambria Conley
Cheryl Conrad
Jennifer Constanza
Nadia Constanza
Jessica Cook
Bridget Cornett
Michaun Cosby
Debbie Coulter
Wanda Crawley-Pearson
Rachel Cross
Gregory Crowe
Khalil Cutair
Mandy Dalton
Sally Davies
Marcello Dean
Leila Dawson
Gina Mai Denn
Nicole DeWald
Eric Didion
Stephen Didion
Lucy Dirksen
Shannon Dodson
Hilda Dominicci
Yolanda Dowe
Lori Downs
Gretchen Dunn
Kim Erby
Charles Fahey
Mia Fair
Craig Farmer
Beth Fendlay
Amanda Ferguson
Catherine Fischer
Bhameney Fishbeck
Danielle Forrey
Lillie Fortune
Angella Foster
Sade Frye
Lachone Fuquay
Anne Gardner
David Gardner
Keona Gardner
Matthew Garton
Kimberly Gary
Mary Gawlik
Ashley Gibbs
Liza Giebel
Patrick Gleason
Gabrielle Glenn
Judith Goldberg-Strassler
Aaron Goldstein
Maria Gomes
Sheryl Gordon
Charles Graham
Emma Grier
Cathy Groen
Mary Grogard
Olivia Guerrieri
Katisha Hampton
Amy Hansen
Clay Harman
Karen Haseley
Michelle Hayes
Veronica Hemrich
Kyle Herbert
Noah Hess
Haley Hilliard
Phyllis Hines
Peter Holden
Gaye Houchens
T Humphries
Kelly Buck Hunt
Erin Hyde
Kevin Ijomoh

Stephen Irving
Katherine Jacobs
De'Ayrus Jackson
Anish Jain
Amritha Jayanti
Megan Johannes
Tiffany Johannes
Amalia Johnson
Nick Johnson
Tenio Johnson
Thomas 'Taj' Johnson
Donna Jones
Frank Jones
Sean Jones
Kristina Kallemyn
Mitch Kallemyn
Kathy Kayser
Alex Kincaid
Judith Kornett
Alma Knutson
Christiana Lacourse
Tina Lamanna
Donna Lanier
Sarah Larkin
Amanda Larsen
Brenna Lauer
Karla Lawrence
Ryan Le Tourneau
Danielle Lee
Erin Lee
Kayla Leyton
Mabel Liles
Theresa Lilly
Tinka Long
Alison Longworth
Joe Lorenzetti
Joseph Loutsch
Maria Luz
Kathie Lynch
Lindsey Mack
Jonathan Mackie
Julie Magness
Ken Mahen
Erika Malloy
Susan Mangum
Jim Marley
Lauren Martin
Thrishia Martinez
Betty May
Gregory May
Maggie May
Michael Maxwell
Tiffany McCord
Tina McCloud
Ivy McCormick
Kate McElhenny
Christine McElroy
Phoebe McFarb
Carol Mealey
Alister Miller
Allen Miller
Jonathan Miller
Mike Mirshahi
Priscilla Mizani
Milan Monardes
Johanna Moore
Marat Moore
Delante Morton
Derrick Morton
Amber Muhammad
Eileen Murray
Catherine Naeger
Rajesh Nair
Anastasia Nicol
Danny Nichols
Josh Nichols
Souzan Noaman
Sandra Okafor
Joshua Omade
Nnamdi Onwuka
Ivan Orellana
Anne Oudemans
Michael Pappas
Coleen Parker
Stephen Parks
Dana Peral
Flavia Perrotta
Elaina Perry
Catherine Peterson
Kevin Pham
Kristine Pham

Andrew Phelan
Vanessa Phillips
Courtney Powers
Cathryn Pracht
Rachel Quinton
Di Quynn-Reno
Kate Robinson
Mark Robinson
Olga Robinson
Vinnie Rojas-Trozzo
Lois Rosado
Darius Ross
Stacey Russell
Jason Ryan
Jimmy Schnurr
Jonathan Schnurr
Theresa Schnurr
Erin Schuler
Marty Seitz
A. J. Sesay
Julian Shadding
Allan Shapiro
Abram Shaw
Greyson Sheppard
Emma Shugrue
Shaine Siegel
Sydney Siegel
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Marion Simpson
Melissa Sites
Michal Skocik
Karen Smith
Tesi Smith
Byron Snowden
Adam Snyder
Kyle Snyder
Nora Snyder
Chris Speight
Kobbe Stafford
Anne Stanton
Rebekah Sutfin
Cecil Sutherland
Nick Tartaro
Dan Taylor
Chris Tennant
Ashley Thomas
Maya Thomas
Natalie Thomas
Annacherie Thompson
Charles Thompson
Ebony Thornton
Zach Tilkins
Janean Tinker
Allison Titman
Cheryl Townsend
Teresa Trozzo
Carter Turner
Catherine Turner
Jane Ulrich
Linda Uphoff
Albert Velasquez
Quinn Valentich
Doreen Vernon
Amelia Vignolia
Jaylen Vines
Marsha Voigt
Patricia Vornberger
Michael Wach
Beverly Ward
Steve Ward
Christine Washburn
Julia Watson
Valerie Watson
Christian Webb
Jenna Whelan
Doug White
Ruth White
Rayna Whitted
Elaine Wilcoxson
Christian Williams
Michelle Williams
Alexandria Wilson
Claire Wilson
Emily Winner
Megan Winner
Anita Woodruff
Jamie Woodward
Gloria Yang
Jacqueline Zecher